

Education and Income

- Including all preschoolers, the ECE investment if begun now would return \$107 billion to the Gross National Product by 2050.^{vii}
- Remaining in school is the single most important action adolescents can take to improve their future economic prospects. Going to college boosts income even more.^{viii} The average annual income nationwide for a person with a high school diploma is \$29,185; with an associate's degree is \$35,590; and a bachelor's degree is \$53,103.^{ix}
- Early childhood learning is more effective at getting students to college than tuition policy and credit help combined.^x

Welfare

- An overwhelming proportion of Medicaid recipients and a substantial proportion of welfare recipients are high school dropouts.^{xi}
- In 1991, federal and state expenditures for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (currently titled Temporary Assistance for Needy Families TANF), the largest entitlement program for poor families, totaled \$20 billion plus administrative costs of \$2.6 billion.^{xii}

Crime and Violence

- Including all preschoolers, the ECE investment if begun now would save \$155 billion as a result of lower crimes and delinquency rates by 2050.^{xiii}
- In 1993, the cost of providing medical care for American firearm victims ages ten through nineteen was \$407 million.^{xiv}
- Men with limited skills and few legal earnings opportunities may net substantially more from criminal activities with rates of pay as much as 2 to 4 times higher than those from legitimate work.^{xv}
- 3 out of 4 of the inmates in state prisons, nearly 59% of federal prisoners, and 69% of jail inmates are high school dropouts.^{xvi}

Health

- In the six years between 1985 and 1990, estimated public outlays related to teenage childbearing totaled more than \$120 billion. More than \$48 billion could have been saved if these births had been postponed until the mother was age 20 or older.^{xvii}
- Substance abuse costs the United States more than \$238 billion a year.^{xviii}

Business

- Limited literacy skills cost businesses and taxpayers approximately \$20 billion per year in lost wages, profits, and productivity.^{xix}
- It is estimated that absenteeism caused by poor quality child care costs American business more than \$3 billion a year.^{xx}

“It is clear that long-term taxpayer returns are substantial...In short, the social savings, productivity and wage gains that come from early education are as close as one comes to a guaranteed investment.”^{xxi}

--J.B. Pritzker of the Pritzker Consortium on Early Childhood Development at the University of Chicago

Sources

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^v *ibid*

^{vi} Laying the foundation: Researchers look for better ways to quantify the benefits of investment in early childhood development. December 7-8, 2007 Kathy Cobb Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

www.earlychildhoodrc.org/events/summary.cfm

^{vii} Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development by Robert G. Lynch of the Economic Policy Institute, 2004

^{viii} Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century from the Carnegie Corporation, 1995

^{ix} Texas Higher Education Facts 2006. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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^x Earning a Gold Start Pamphlet from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition, 2004

^{xi} The Progress of Education Reform 2007: Dropout Prevention, Vol. 8, No.1, July 2007. Research Sheds Light on the Students Most at Risk of Dropping Out – and How to Keep Students on the “Graduation Track” Education Commission of the States.

^{xii} Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children from the Carnegie Corporation, 1994.

^{xiii} Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development by Robert G. Lynch of the Economic Policy Institute, 2004

^{xiv} Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century from the Carnegie Corporation, 1995

^{xv} Losing Generations: Adolescents in High Risk Settings from the National Research Council, 1993

^{xvi} The Progress of Education Reform 2007: Dropout Prevention, Vol. 8, No.1, July 2007. Research Sheds Light on the Students Most at Risk of Dropping Out – and How to Keep Students on the “Graduation Track” Education Commission of the States.

^{xvii} Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children from the Carnegie Corporation, 1994.

^{xviii} *Ibid*

^{xix} Earning a Gold Start Pamphlet from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition, 2004

^{xx} How Does High Quality Child Care Benefit Business and the Local Economy? by Jen Brown from the Economic Opportunity Institute, 2002

^{xxi} J.B. Pritzker, May 24, 2006: Chicago Tribune

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